

REMARKS

The paper includes an amendment to the specification which is filed to correct a typographical error in stating that Application No. PCT/US00/29038 is a continuation rather than a continuation-in-part of Application No. 09/550,399. No new matter has been added.

This paper is also filed in response to the Office Action mailed on October 3, 2003, setting forth an election/restriction requirement.

Claims 1-31 are presently pending. Claims 1-17, and 19-28 have been canceled without prejudice to the filing of continuing applications for the subject matter of the canceled claims. Claims 29-31 have been added. Consideration of Claims 18, and 29-31 is respectfully requested.

The Election/Restriction Requirement

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

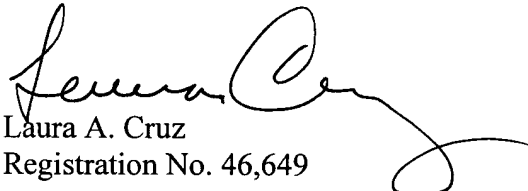
1. Claims 1-13, drawn to a microperforated package and method, classified in class 220, subclass 676.
2. Claims 14-17, drawn to a method of bonding, classified in class 53, subclass 476.
3. Claim 18, drawn to a method for trimming lidding web, classified in class 83, subclass 13.
4. Claim 19, drawn to a tray, classified in class 220, subclass 500.
5. Claims 20-26, drawn to a method for preventing a contaminant from blocking a bonding surface, classified in class 426, subclass 392.
6. Claims 27-28, drawn to a guard, classified in class 220, subclass 694.

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Applicants elect, without traverse, Claim 18 for initial examination. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, the Examiner may contact the applicant's attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: 11/03/03



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